



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning Division
Environmental Branch

AUG 28 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), is gathering information to define issues and concerns that need to be addressed during a shore protection study for Flagler County, Florida. Authority for the study is contained in House Resolution 2676 adopted May 22, 2002. A reconnaissance level report has been completed and resulted in a recommendation to continue the study into the feasibility phase. The study area is the coastal shoreline that exists within the boundaries of Flagler County, approximately 18 miles.

Flagler County is located on the northeast coast of Florida midway between the Florida/Georgia state line and Cape Canaveral. The study area is part of a barrier island and mainland complex that extends from the Matanzas Inlet to the Ponce de Leon Inlet (Figures 1 and 2). Geographically, the county is bound to the north by St. Johns County, to the south by Volusia County, Putnam County to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Critically eroded areas have developed along the shoreline and pose threats to existing development, infrastructures and recreation features; shoreline stabilization structures, a major roadway (State Highway A1A); and fish and wildlife habitat.

The feasibility study will develop and evaluate shore protection alternatives with potential to reduce hurricane and storm damage along critically eroded areas; improve the quality of suitable habitats for threatened and endangered species (Table 1); provide future protective features for unique habitats; provide beneficial use of dredged material; and improve local and regional recreational opportunities. See enclosed "Notice of Intent" for additional information.

For the purposes of the Feasibility Report, the study area has been divided into six (6) reaches (Figure 3) as following:

Reach 1 – Marineland. This reach is located between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) monuments R-1 to R-4. Erosion is being experienced at a rate of 0.5 feet per year (ft/yr).

Reach 2 – Painters Hill. This reach is located between FDEP monuments R-50 to R-55. Erosion is ranging from 1.5 to 2.0 ft/yr.

Reach 3 – Beverly Beach. This reach is located between FDEP monuments R-64 to R-67. Critical erosion extends about 0.3 mile.

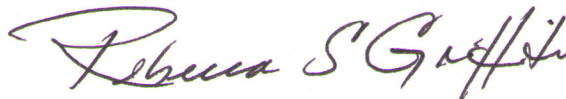
Reaches 4, 5 and 6 – Flagler County. These reaches are located between FDEP monuments R-77 to R-91. Critical erosion extends approximately 2.5 miles.

During the reconnaissance study, sand source alternatives were identified (Figures 3 and 4). It is highly probable that beach quality sand may be secured from maintenance dredging of the Matanzas Intracoastal Waterway; dredging of the material deposited into the Matanzas Inlet by tidal shoals and sediment migration patterns; or secured from offshore sand sources. During the Feasibility Study, details specific to each alternative will be evaluated to determine available volume, quality, and compatibility.

The Flagler County Shoreline Protection Project is proposed for evaluation under the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. The EIS will assess impacts on the human environment, identify methods and procedures to insure that present un-quantified environmental amenities and values are sufficiently addressed, evaluate unresolved conflict that may develop over the recommended alternatives; and will initiate and use ecological/natural resources information in the planning and development of project action and alternatives. During the Feasibility Study, public meetings also will be conducted to identify and develop public concerns and obtain substantive input into the study processes.

The Corps invite you to submit comments on environmental concerns, cultural resources, study objectives, and important features within the described study area, as well as, suggested alternatives, scientific data, and possible study improvements. Within 45 days of this letter, your written communication should be directed to the letterhead address. Questions of inquiry and clarification can be directed to the Environmental Point of Contact, Ms. C.L. Brooks, at either the above letterhead, telephone number 904-232-2130, facsimile number 904-232-3442, or email address Catherine.l.brooks@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Rebecca S. Griffith, Ph.D, PMP
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure

bcc (w/ encl.):
CESAJ-PD-PC
CESAJ-DP-I